



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2007

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WALKER ANNOUNCES WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY
Highlights Hybrid Cars and Pedestrian Safety

MILWAUKEE – County Executive Scott Walker, together with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, announced that October 15 is Wisconsin's White Cane Safety Day. Passed in 1947, this law reminds motor vehicle operators to yield the right away to people who are blind using a white cane or dog guide.

“With the increase in quietly operating hybrid cars, this is an additional concern for our citizens who are blind,” said County Executive Scott Walker.

Don Natzke, Director of the Office for Persons with Disabilities, noted, “because these cars operate so quietly, those of us who are blind are unable to reliably hear them when crossing an intersection.” This places greater responsibility on the operators of hybrid cars to be attentive to all pedestrians particularly children, people who are blind, senior citizens, or others who may be alerted to the presence of a car by its sound. “Though we welcome a cleaner environment, we also need it to be a safe one, as well,” Natzke said.

Throughout the month of October, the Tap the Potential Coalition of Milwaukee area disability organizations are highlighting issues of importance to people with disabilities. For more information on these activities, contact: Don Natzke at 278-3935.

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